Appl. No. 10/694,502
Amdt. dated April 24, 2009
Reply to Final Office Action dated February 13, 2009

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for managing a plurality of programs, said method comprising:

storing, by the computer system, a first program comprising a first plurality of activities and a second program comprising a second plurality of activities, wherein the first and second programs are not considered activities of a larger program by the computer system;

receiving, at the computer system, ~~cross-program dependency information between a first program in the plurality of programs and a second program in the plurality of programs, wherein the first program comprises a first plurality of activities and the second program comprises a second plurality of activities, and wherein the cross-program dependency information includes~~ an interdependency between a first activity in the first plurality of activities and a second activity in the second plurality of activities; and

graphically displaying, at the computer system, the interdependency between the first activity and the second activity in a computerized schedule available to a program manager of the first program and a program manager of the second program, wherein a modification of one of the first or second activities causes an effect of the modification to be graphically displayed in the computerized schedule.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for managing a plurality of programs, said method comprising:

storing, in a database, cross-program dependency information between a first program in the plurality of programs and a second program in the plurality of programs, wherein the first program comprises a first plurality of activities and the second program comprises a second plurality of activities, wherein the first and second programs are not stored as activities of a larger program in the database, and wherein the cross-program dependency information

includes an interdependency between a first activity in the first plurality of activities and a second activity in the second plurality of activities; and

graphically displaying, at the computer system, the interdependency between the first activity and the second activity in a program schedule, wherein a modification of one of the first or second activities causes an effect of said modification to be graphically displayed in the program schedule.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said modification of one of the first or second activities initiates an approval request requiring a response before said modification.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said modification causes an electronic message to be sent to the program manager of the first program and the program manager of the second program.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said computerized schedule is operable by program managers to raise issues, alert other program managers of scheduling changes, arrange team meetings, and initiate phase exit reviews.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising displaying problem logs associated with the computerized schedule.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first and second activities are selected from a group consisting of: phases, tasks, deliverables, and gates.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for managing a plurality of programs, said method comprising:

storing, by the computer system, a first program comprising a first plurality of
activities and a second program comprising a second plurality of activities, wherein the first and
second programs are not considered activities of a larger program by the computer system;

receiving, at the computer system, ~~cross-program dependency information~~
~~between a first program in the plurality of programs and a second program in the plurality of~~
~~programs, wherein the first program comprises a first plurality of activities and the second~~
~~program comprises a second plurality of activities, and wherein the cross-program dependency~~
~~information includes~~ an interdependency between a first activity in the first plurality of activities
and a second activity in the second plurality of activities; and

graphically displaying, at the computer system, the interdependency between the
first activity and the second activity in a schedule, wherein the graphical display of the schedule
includes a status of the first activity in the first program and a status of the second activity in the
second program.

11.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing a plurality of programs,
said system comprising:

a database operable to maintain cross-program dependency information between a
first program in the plurality of programs and a second program in the plurality of programs,
wherein the first program comprises a first plurality of activities and the second program
comprises a second plurality of activities, wherein the first and second programs are not stored as
activities of a larger program in the database, and wherein the cross-program dependency
information includes an interdependency between a first activity in the first plurality of activities
and a second activity in the second plurality of activities; and

a processor programmed to:

receive the cross-dependency information between the first program and
the second program; and

graphically display the interdependency between the first activity and the
second activity in an electronic schedule, viewable and modifiable by a program manager of the
first program and a program manager of the second program across a network, wherein

modification of one of the first or second activities reestablishes said interdependency in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

12.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein the modification of one of the first or second activities initiates an approval request, said approval request requiring a response before said electronic schedule is updated with reestablished interdependencies.

13.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein the modification of one of the first or second activities causes an electronic message to be sent to the program manager of the first program and the program manager of the second program.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the electronic schedule has a fixed duration, and wherein if the modification to one of the first or second activities causes the fixed duration to change, an electronic notification is sent to the program managers of the first and second programs.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein said system is operable for displaying problem logs associated with the electronic schedule.

16.   (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein said system is a web-based Program Management Application.

17.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein said system is operable by program managers to raise issues, alert program managers of scheduling changes, arrange team meetings, and initiate phase exit reviews.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the first and second activities are selected from a group consisting of: phases, tasks, deliverables, and gates.

19.   (Currently Amended) A system of managing a plurality of programs for the development of products and services, comprising:

a database operative to store cross-program dependency information between a first program in the plurality of programs and a second program in the plurality of programs, wherein the first program comprises a first plurality of activities and the second program comprises a second plurality of activities, <u>wherein the first and second programs are not stored as activities of a larger program in the database,</u> and wherein the cross-program dependency information includes an interdependency between a first activity in the first plurality of activities and a second activity in the second plurality of activities; and

a user interface operative for graphically displaying the interdependency between the first activity and the second activity over a network in an electronic schedule, viewable and modifiable <u>by</u> a program manager of the first program and a program manager of the second program, wherein modification of one of the first or second activities reestablishes said interdependency in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 19, wherein said network is The Internet.

21.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein said user interface is a JAVA application.

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium, the computer-readable medium having stored thereon a series of computer-executable instructions which, when executed by a processing component of a computer system, causes the processing component to manage a plurality of programs with cross-program dependencies by:

<u>storing a first program comprising a first plurality of activities and a second program comprising a second plurality of activities, wherein the first and second programs are not considered activities of a larger program by the computer system;</u>

receiving ~~cross-program dependency information between a first program in the plurality of programs and a second program in the plurality of programs, wherein the first program comprises a first plurality of activities and the second program comprises a second plurality of activities, and wherein the cross-program dependency information includes~~ an

interdependency between a first activity in the first plurality of activities and a second activity in the second plurality of activities; and

graphically displaying the interdependency between the first activity and the second activity in an electronic schedule viewable by a program manager of the first program and a program manager of the second program, wherein modification of one of the first or second activities reestablishes said interdependency in an updated, graphical display of said electronic schedule.

23.   (Canceled)